

Town of Brentwood

Budget Committee Meeting

Minutes of August 17, 2009

Present: Elyse Seeley (Chair), Bob Mantegari, Bill Faria, Ken Christiansen, Jeff Bryan (Selectmen's Rep), and Charley Gargaly (Swasey School Board Rep.)

Absent: Tracie May; Jason Clark

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

Correspondence:

- The New Teen Outlook sent a newsletter describing the summer activities at the center.
- Two State of NH technical info releases distributed- 1)ARRA fund related Special Town Meetings, and 2) Special Town meetings to reduce appropriations due to State revenue reductions.
- Budget and Finance workshop registration, scheduled for September 24th –all committee members are welcomed to attend.

Meeting minutes: Postponed until next meeting. Tracie will e-mail April 20th minutes and the committee will review and approve them at the September meeting.

Updates:

Town of Brentwood Budgets (Jeff Bryan, rep) Jeff advised that the town spending is on track with no anomalies. Updated town expense and encumbrance report reviewed.

Per the new requirement to hold a special town meeting to receive unanticipated funds related to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Stimulus money), such a meeting will be held to accept and expend @\$1.2 million for Crawley Falls bridge repairs and also Fire Department building funds, if these become available. The meeting would combine a public hearing and meeting to expedite the process of receiving stimulus money. The bridge would be paid 100 % by these funds as long as certain conditions are met. Stimulus \$ comes with "strings" – American manufactured materials, specific and known start dates, completed surveys. The Fire Station has also applied for funds, with a 2.3 million dollar budget, paid 60% by ARRA funds. We should know if the building is eligible by end of October.

The Fire Department is working under the new expanded coverage hours. Also, bids have been out on a new fire truck. The Selectmen have also requested the Fire Department to delay exhaust and duct work at the current Fire Station house until later in the year.

Finally, a discussion of the impact of the state reductions in revenue both overall and in the retirement contributions was discussed. The impact on Brentwood has not been specified as

yet. Elyse will get additional information for the next meeting. There was general discussion regarding budget planning and preparation for revenue impact and the continuing weak economy. Elyse will attend the Selectmen's meeting tomorrow night to discuss planning strategies. All are welcomed to join in attendance.

Brentwood School Board (Charlie Gargaly, rep)

Charlie reported that there is not too much to report on as they are doing end of year closeouts, and plan to meet soon to begin the budget process. The Board is working hard to meet the bottom line budget approved. No staff cuts were made to achieve this. School year enrollment is not known as yet.

There was a leak in the propane tank discovered at the school this summer. The School Board approved (from maintenance funding) a repair and refurbish of the tank and the tank was repaired for approximately \$1,500.00 dollars.

Fire Station Capital Project

As reported earlier, the selectmen applied for stimulus funds to assist in the construction of a new fire house. If approved, we requested 60% of the cost of a new building and the town would cover the other 40%. A special meeting would have to be held and the new fire house would have to be approved by the town before any funds could be used or any work begun.

Budget Committee "Field Trips"

The Budcom discussed, as a follow-up to last year's discussion, a "field trip" to view and obtain an updated perspective of the condition of town properties, the library and elementary school, to assist us in understanding operations and operating cost issues. We have set October 2, 2009 as a tentative date to make this trip throughout the town and school properties.

Next meeting : September 14, 7:00 PM at town offices.

Other important dates: January 26th and February 5 (Warrant Articles) and 7th (@ 9:00 AM for public hearings on Town and Swasey school budgets. Rain date for the 2/7 meeting is 2/9 at 7:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 8:08. Minutes taken and reported by Bill Faria.